

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:FJTATU
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
EA/J:RNKILPATRICK (DRAFT)
IO:PSBRIDGES

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P R 101844Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, JA, US, SA, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FONMIN SONODA LETTER TO SECRETARY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER, PRESENTED AUGUST 8 TO
IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES BY GOJ EMBASSY DCM, TO
SECRETARY FROM FONMIN SONODA:

"EXCELLENCY:

I AM DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT A MAJOR BREAK-
THROUGH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN YOUR ARDUOUS EFFORTS TO
ASSIST NAMIBIA IN ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE PEACEFULLY
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU VERY WARMLY ON
THIS SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT.

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WHILST I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE FORMIDABLE
DIFFICULTIES STILL TO BE OVERCOME, MAY I EXTEND TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY MY GOOD WISHES FOR THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF
THE INITIATIVES YOU HAVE TAKEN AND ASSURE YOU OF OUR
FIRM SUPPORT AND READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH YOU BY WHAT-
EVER MEANS IS PRACTICABLE.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE BONN SUMMIT. PERSONALLY I WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REINFORCE OUR RELATIONSHIP OF CONSTANT DIALOGUE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN POSSIBLY AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

WARM REGARDS, SUNAO SONODA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN."

2. WHILE LETTER MIGHT MERELY REPRESENT PRO-FORMA GOOD WISHES, SONODA'S CONTEXTUAL REFERENCE TO ASSURANCES OF "FIRM SUPPORT AND READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH YOU BY WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE" COULD HAVE MORE SUBTLE MEANING. PARTICULARLY IF LETTER HAS BEEN RELEASED TO THE PRESS, WE SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE INTENDED AS TRIAL BALLOON TO TEST JAPANESE PUBLIC REACTION TO POSSIBLE GOJ PARTICIPATION IN UNTAG.

3. DURING MAYNES' RECENT TOKYO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON NAMIBIA, IT APPEARED THAT WHILE GAIMUSHO DESIRES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS FOR UNTAG PARTICIPATION, THEY ARE MOVING VERY CAUTIOUSLY IN ORDER TO PREPARE KEY CONSTITUENCIES AND TO BE IN A POSITION TO FALL
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BACK IF SERIOUS OPPOSITION DEVELOPS.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS ASAP ON RESPONSE TO SONODA WHICH WOULD AT THE SAME TIME KEEP CONSIDERATIONS OF GOJ NAMIBIA PARTICIPATION UP FRONT BUT AVOID COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE REACTION FROM PUBLIC OPINION AND OPPOSITION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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